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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11

AF-06 OPIC-03 EURE-00 /080 W
---------- 030448
P R 111516Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5983
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 939

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: PROGRESS TOWARD ELECTIONS AND AFM PACK REVISION

REF: (A) LISBON 908 (DTG 101605Z FEB 76), (B) LISBON 716
(DTG 021411Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO INDICATED HIS AVAILABILITY
FOR PRESIDENCY IF ARMED FORCES DECIDED HIS CANDIDACY NECESSARY.
SA CARNEIRO WENT PUBLIC ON DEMAND FOR SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS
FOR PRESIDENCY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, BUT LEFT DOOR
OPEN FOR NEGOTIATONS ON TIMING. SOCIALIST, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC,
AND CDS LEADERS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION ITH REVISED VERSION OF
AFM-PARTIES PACT. END SUMMARY.

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1. ELECTIONS: SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS KEPT ELECTIONS AT FOREFRONT

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OF PUBLIC ATTENTION.

-- AZEVDEO ON PRESIDENCY: RESPONDING TO REPORTERS' QUESTION FEB 10, PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO SAID HE WOULD AGREE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY ONLY IF MILITARY DECIDED THAT HIS CANDIACY WAS NECESSARY.

-- SA CARNEIRO ON ELECTIONS: SA CARNEIRO TOLD FEB 10 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WERE ESSENTIAL FOR STABILITY OF POLITICAL SYSTEM (REF A). HE SAID THAT FAILURE TO HOLD ELECTIONS SIMULTANEOUS -LY WOULD FORCE PPD TO REVIEW ITS POSITION ON THE AFM-PARTIES PACT.

-- COUNCIL OF MINISTERS: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECIDED AT FEB 10 MEETING THAT ONLY POLITICAL PARTIES COULD PRESENT LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS, BUT INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES COULD RUN ON PARTY LISTS. COUNCIL ALSO AGREED TO RETAIN PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM AND TO ALLOT EMIGRANT VOTERS MAXIMUM OF FOUR SEATS IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

-- NATIONAL ELECTION COMMISSION WAS SWORN IN FEB 10 WITH BROAD POWERS TO SUPERVISE ELECTIONS AND INFORM PUBLIC ON ELECTION PROCESS.

2. PACTS: ALL THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTON WITH VERSION OF AFM-POLITICAL PARTIES PACT WHICH WAS APPROVED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AT FEB 9 MEETING. LEADERS OF PS, PPD AND CDS HAVE STATED THAT MILITARY HAD CONCEDED ON ALL MAJOR POINTS. WHILE ONLY A FEW DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, SIGNING OF PACT MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL FEB 17 DUE TO ABSENCE OF MARIO SOARES. SOARES WILL BE AWAY FROM FEB 11 -16 VISITING AUSTRIA AND ROMANIA.

3. CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT COMPOSITION: THE TWO NEW CABINET POSITIONS CREATED FOLLOWING JAN 30 BREAK-UP OF MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT WERE FILLED FEB 10 (REF B). EDUARDO RIBERIO PERREIRA (PS) WAS SWORN IN AS MINISTER OF HOUSING, URGAN AFFAIRS, AND CONSTRUCTON. COMMUNIST ALVARO AUGUSTO VEIGA DE OLIVEIRA, WAS SWORN IN AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITION, MANUEL TAVEIRA SERODIO (PS) AND ALVARO PINTO CORREIA (IND) TOOK THE OATHS OF OFFICE AS SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR, RESPECTIVELY, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS AND CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WITHIN PERREIRA'S MINISTRY. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, EXTERNAL COMMERCE MINISTER JORGE CAMPINOS CONFIRMED FEB 10 NOMINATION OF SOCIALIST LEADER LUIS FILIPE MADEIRA TO FILL VACANCY IN SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR TOURISM. MADEIRA IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST GROUP IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

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AND HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CIVIL GOVENOR OF FARO.

4.COMMENT: AZEVEDO'S CAREFULLY CHOSEN REMAKRS SOUND LIKE THOSE OF A CANDIDATE. AT THIS POINT, HE MUST BE CONSIDERED THE FRONT RUNNER FOR THE PRESIDENCY. SA CARNEIRO PHRASED HIS IN-SISTENCE ON SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND THE ASSEMBLY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. HIS TYING OF ELECTIONS SEQUENCE TO PACT NEGOTIATIONS IS INTENDED TO FORCE NEGOTIATIONS ON TIMING. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FEB 10 ANNOUNCED NO DECISION ON SEQUENCE OF ELECTIONS, AS FEARED BY SA CARNEIRO (REF A).
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